UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Missouri	
COUNTY:	
St. Charles	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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	AND/OR HISTORIC:							
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NEWBILL-McelHINEY HOUSE

Physical Description

The Newbill-McElhiney House is a five-bay, fourteen room modified Federal-style house located at 625 South Main Street, St. Charles, Missouri. The southernmost three bays of the house are probably the original building constructed in 1836, while the appended two northern bays and possibly the second floor on the south side were added during the 1850's to create a nearly symmetrical house. The later additions were executed carefully to duplicate the original work, and upon examination the mortar line between the two portions can be observed.

The exterior of the home remains unaltered except for the removal of original chimneys and parapets, to be restored, and a large porch which may have been attached to the south wall. The gable roof is otherwise intact. Viewing the front (Main Street) side, four doublehung, six-over-six light, sash windows flank a central doorway on the first and second floors. A similar arrangement is observed in the front basement wall. Basement windows are also double-hung sash type, but are eight-over-eight light. A two-story porch is centered about the main doorway and extends north and south along the front wall a total length of three bays. A similar window and door pattern is repeated on the west (rear) wall except for the elimination of the full porch and the substitution of jack-arches of brick for stone lintels above the windows. The cornice does not appear on the rear facade. Two cellar doors provide access to the basement from the rear. The south (Perry Street) wall is devoid of openings except for a small basement ventilator, an attic window and a rear door providing access to the main living floor (a later addition to be eliminated). A similar window pattern is repeated on the north wall.

On both living floors, equidimensional front and rear rooms flank either side of an east-west central hallway. An attic consisting of one room on either side of the central hallway occurs above the second floor. The basement contains four rooms with a ceiling of heavy joists, one of which is mortised. The front basement room may have been used for dining and the back room, with its deep, offset fireplace, as a kitchen. (St. Louis <u>Post-Dispatch</u>, August 8, 1971).

A small two-story "L-plan" brick building situated to the rear of the home on the north side of the lot appears to have been constructed in conjunction with the Newbill-McElhiney Home, although it is difficult to determine which builder is responsible. This building is rumored to have been used as a slave quarters. The

IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(5) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1836-18	358	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Newbill-McElhiney House in St. Charles, Missouri, is significant as a nineteenth century home situated within an historic district recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, effective September 22, 1969. Although several structures in the St. Charles Main Street Historic District predate the Newbill-McElhiney home, the district itself contains a variety of buildings constructed between the late Federal period and the final years of the nineteenth century. The Newbill-McElhiney House, representing a residential architectural style prevalent in Missouri during the 1830's, compliments and enhances the diversity of the Main Street Historic District.

The Newbill-McElhiney House, named for two individuals who constructed the building, is situated upon a lot which had historically been located in the midst of a flourishing residential and commercial district. The property, situated on the "street of the church," was initially claimed in 1816 by Pierre Troge, who established title immediately after the completion of an early town survey. (St. Charles County Deed Book "D", p. 112). The property endured several subsequent real estate transfers between 1816 and 1836, but continually increased in value with each sale, indicating that Main Street was prosperous and had come to support many homes and (Abstract of Title to a lot of ground in City Block businesses. 26... In possession of Emmons Abstract Company, St. Charles, Missouri). Prior to Franklin S. Newbill's purchase in 1836, the site upon which the home was constructed was owned by Uriah J. Devore, a tayern keeper from St. Louis. Devore established his popular "Kentucky Hotel" in St. Charles during 1821, which he boastfully claimed to be "superior in point of extensiveness to any house north of the Missouri." (Louis Houck, A History of Missouri, III, 1908, p. 60. St. Charles County Deed Book "E", p. 377). Devore served as county sheriff 1816-1818 and later represented St. Charles County in the Missouri General Assembly which met at the First Missouri State Capitol, a restored structure located within the Main Street Historic District. (St. Louis, Missouri Gazette, April 19, 1820, August 9, 1820, September 20, 1820).

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Abstract of Title to a lot of ground in Block No. 26, commencing from the North-west corner of Main and Perry Streets, St. Charles, Missouri. In possession of Emmons Abstract Company, St. Charles, Missouri.

Houck, Louis, A History of Missouri, 3 Vols., Chicago: R.R. Donnelley and Sons, 1908.

"Last Will and Testament of William McElhiney", St. Charles County Book of Wills, filed November 1879.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries)

6.

NEWBILL-MCELHINEY HOUSE

Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office

1971

Missouri State Park Board

Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. #1

NEWBILL-MCELHINEY HOUSE

St. Charles County Historical Society's restoration plan includes removing more recent appendages to this brick building and restoring the structure along with the Newbill-McElhiney Home. Access to the interior of this outbuilding has not been possible, therefore, roof construction, doorway and window arrangements are not known at the time of this writing. It is known that the building was free standing in 1882, and probably dates prior to the Civil War. (St. Charles County Deed Book "C" #2, p. 363. Abstract of Title to a lot of ground in City Block No. 26 ... In possession of Emmons Abstract Co., St. Charles, Missouri. Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, American Institute of Architects, information in a letter to the Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, August 30, 1971).

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8. #1

NEWBILL-McELHINEY HOUSE

Immediately prior to Newbill's acquisition, George Collier, a merchant from St. Louis, purchased the site and an adjoining lot, which he subsequently transferred to his mother to protect "the ground upon which she caused a brick church to be erected." (St. Charles County Deed Book "I-J", p. 23. St. Louis, Missouri Gazette, August 28, 1818, June 12, 1818). Collier's Church was probably the Methodist-Episcopal Church which has been recently restored on the original site north of the Newbill-McElhiney House. The abstract indicated the first brick church was undoubtedly constructed during the years of Collier's ownership (1821-1831). (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 8, 1971. Edna McElhiney Olson, Historical St. Charles, 1967).

Franklin S. Newbill acquired his lot at the northwest corner of Main and Perry Streets at a sheriff's auction in June 1836, to settle a judgement against a purchaser of Collier's property. (St. Charles County Deed Book "D", p. 24). Newbill purchased his land for \$50.00, but within two years he used the property as collateral to secure a \$1000.00 loan, although at no previous time had the land sold for more that \$200.00. (St. Charles County Deed Book "M", p. 89, 121). Obviously Newbill had substantially improved the lot between 1836 and 1838, undoubtedly by the construction of his home. In June 1841, Newbill sold his "house and lot on Main Street in which we now reside" for \$1,500. (St. Charles County Deed Book "N", p. 66, Book "O", p. 124).

William J. McElhiney, a prominent physican and Democratic politician, had moved from Bel-Air, Maryland, and purchased the Newbill Home in December 1858, for \$2,450. (St. Charles County Deed Book "I", #2, p. 96. St. Louis Argus, March 6, 1840, June 7, 1839). The substantial increase in the value of the property from the time of Newbill's sale to McElhiney's purchase suggests that a number of improvements were made prior to McElhiney, since the resale value of the property increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000 between July 1850 and October 1855, during the single occupancy by a Mr. John Platt. (St. Charles County Deed Book "Y", p. 37, Book "Z", p. 300, Book "D" #2, p. 192). However, it is certain that most substantial additions to the Newbill home were made by William McElhiney himself since he sold his home for \$6,000 in May 1865. (St. Charles County Deed Book "Y", p. 41).

Evidence that the home was constructed during different periods is provided by a comparison of plaster lath in the basement rooms. In the original portion the lath is hand-split, while in a northern room (McElhiney construction) the lath was sawn mechanically. Similarly,

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8. #2

NEWBILL-McELHINEY HOUSE

the bonding of exterior brickwork and foundation suggests construction at different times, since the basement and first floor of the Newbill side is constructed in Flemish bond upon a regular ashlar foundation on the Main Street side. A different type bond and a rubble foundation was used in the addition. More subtle variations are discernable in exterior and interior wood trim, and in the arrangement and hanging of shutters. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 8, 1971. St. Charles Banner-News, February 5, 1971). It is not certain why William McElhiney sold his home in 1865 but within two years he had repurchased it for \$4,500, and shortly before his death in 1883 deeded the homestead to a daughter for a token consideration. (St. Charles County Deed Book "29," p. 569). During the probation of William McElhiney's estate in 1883, the house was subdivided between two heirs, the south half being deeded to McElhiney's widow, while the northern portion was granted to the daughter. Ownership was not consolidated until 1888, and the house was maintained as two independent residences during the fiveyear period. (Abstract of Title to a lot of ground in City Block No. 26... In possession of Emmons Abstract Company, St. Charles, Missouri). The home passed completely from the McElhiney family in 1895.

The St. Charles County Historical Society currently holds title to the Newbill-McElhiney home. The Society anticipated restoring the property to reflect the appearance of the home during Newbill-McElhiney period, after the McElhiney family had improved the old Newbill House. Upon completion of the restoration, the home will be furnished with a number of McElhiney antiques which have been purchased by the Society, and the property will be opened for public display. Restoration plans include maintaining the three-board horizontal wainscot in the firstfloor dining room and retention of the vertical wainscot in the newer The Society will install modern heating and cooling facilities and landscape the home. A 35-foot-deep stone lined well in the rear yard will also be opened and rebuilt. The St. Charles County Historical Society intends to open only the basement and two main living floors to visitors. The attic will remain closed for storage facilities. The front porch, modified at a later date, will be restored to simulate a design represented in an 1880 photograph, and the old picket fence will be replaced. The south veranda will not be restored.

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9. #1

NEWBILL-McELHINEY HOUSE

Olson, Edna McElhiney, <u>Historical St. Charles</u>, St. Charles, Missouri: 1967.

St. Charles Banner-News, (St. Charles, Missouri), February 5, 1971.

"D" St. Charles County Deed Book: pp. 24,112 "E" p. 377 "I-J" p. 23 "M" pp. 89, 121 "N" p. 66 "0" p. 124 ijγij pp. 37, 41 "Z" p. 300 "C" #2 p. 363 "I" #2 p. 96 "D" #2 p. 192 "29" p. 569

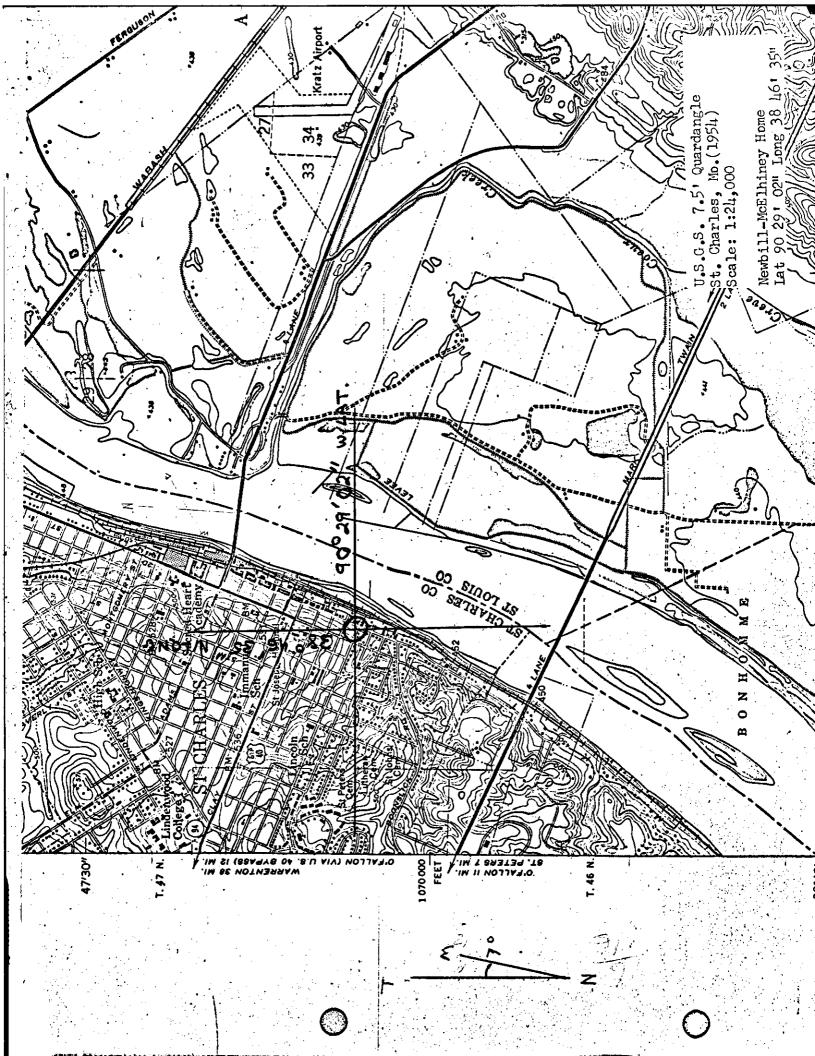
- St. Louis Argus, (St. Louis, Missouri), June 7, 1839, March 6, 1840.
- St. Louis <u>Missouri: Gazette</u> (St. Louis, Missouri), April 19, 1820, June 12, 1818, August 9, 1920, September 20, 1820, August 28, 1818.
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch, (St. Louis, Missouri), August 8, 1971.

¹Form 10-301 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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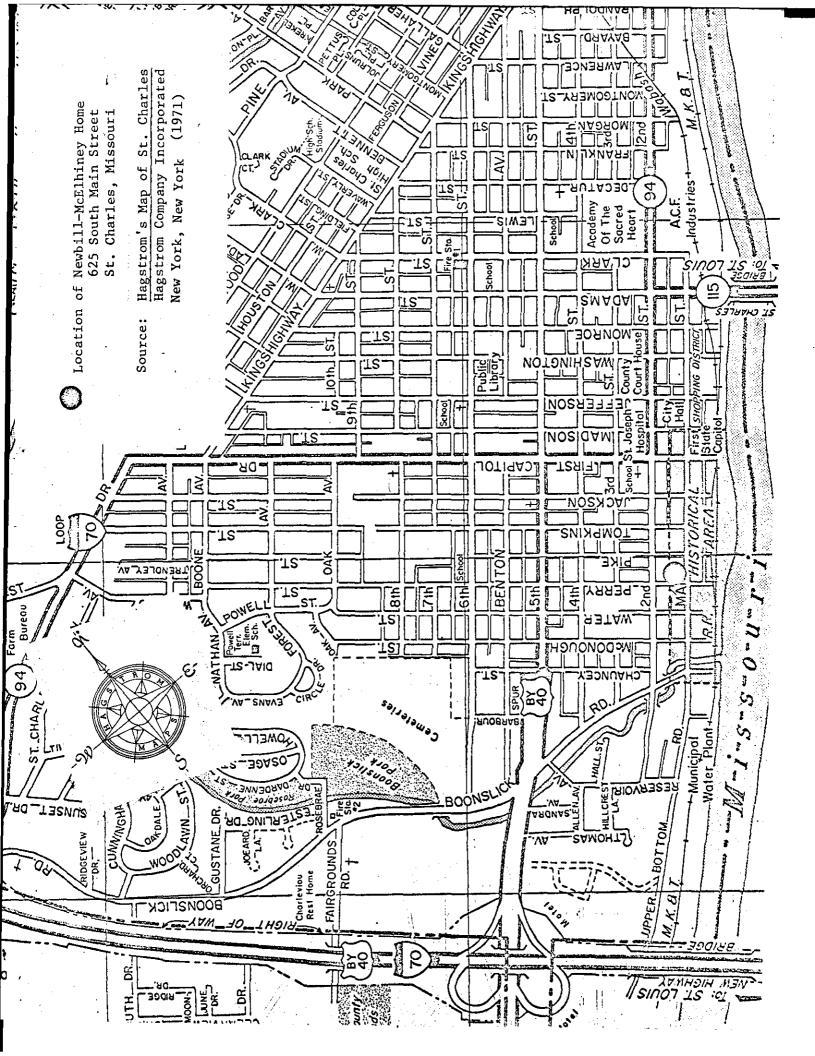
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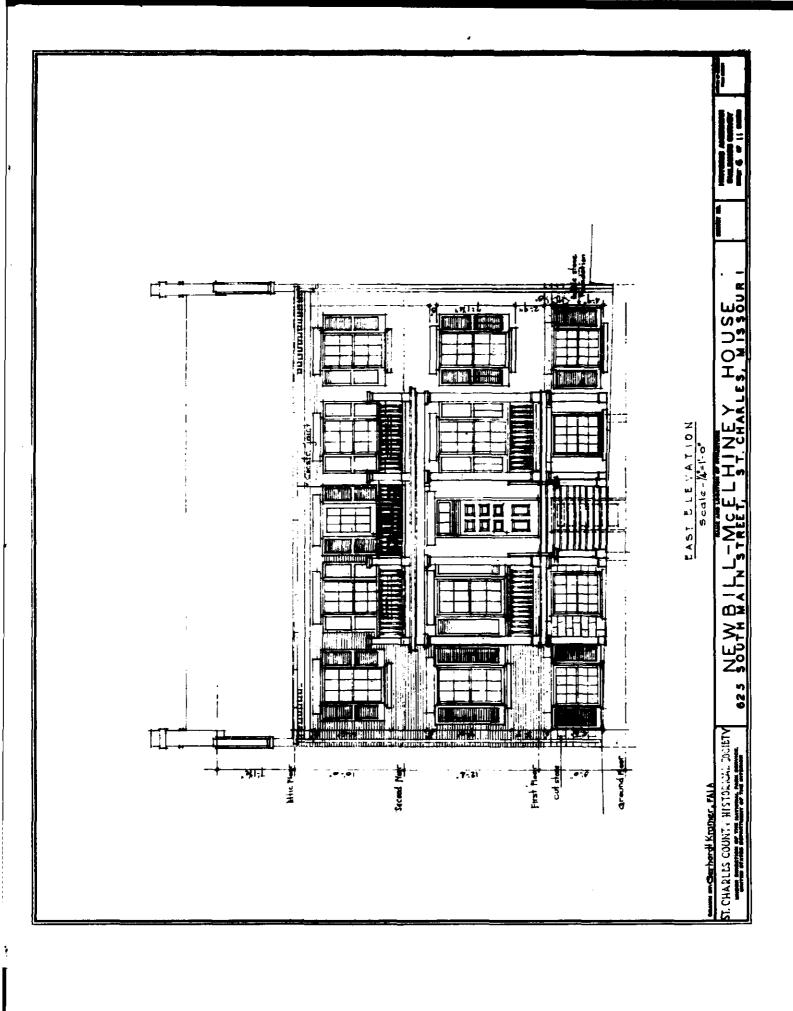
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, 9	INE THE WATER			-					
	DESCRIBE VIEW,	DIRECTION, ETC.	,	1					
	Restoration drawing, East(primary) elevation, east facing								



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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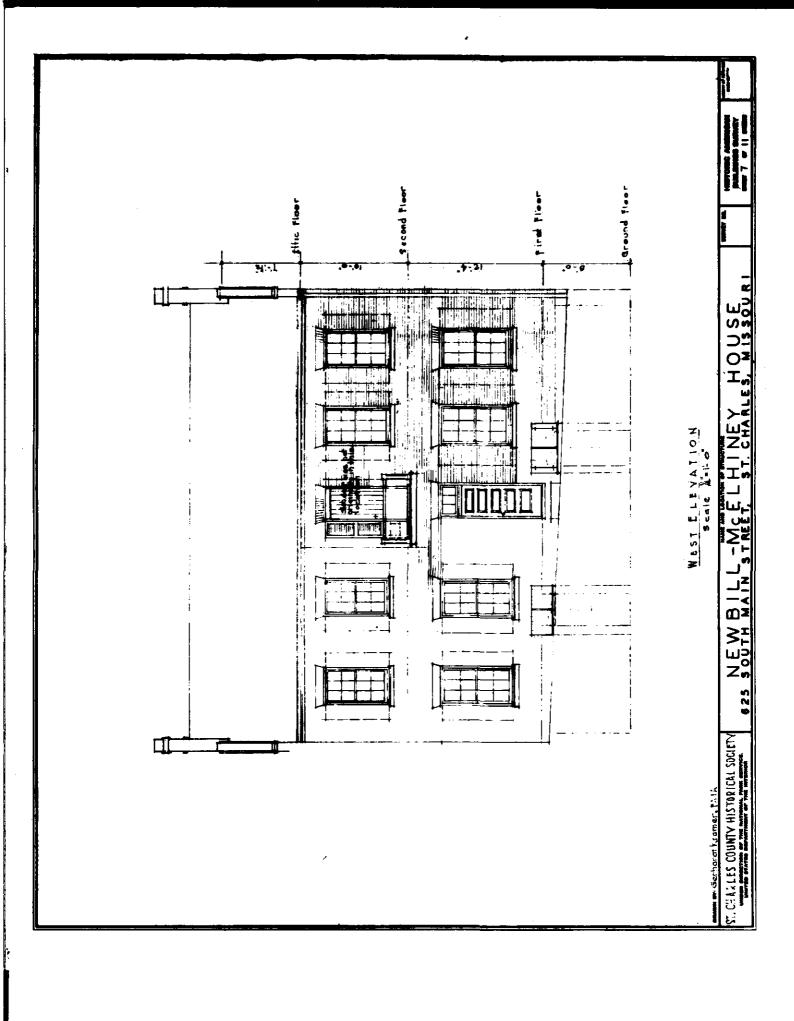
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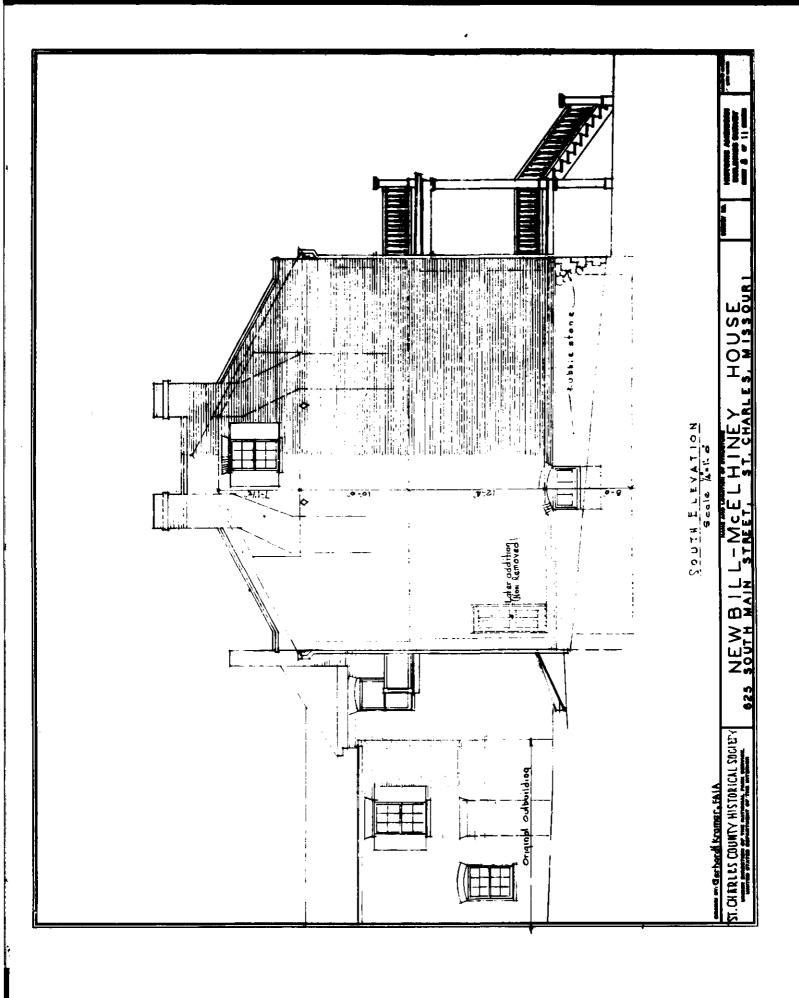
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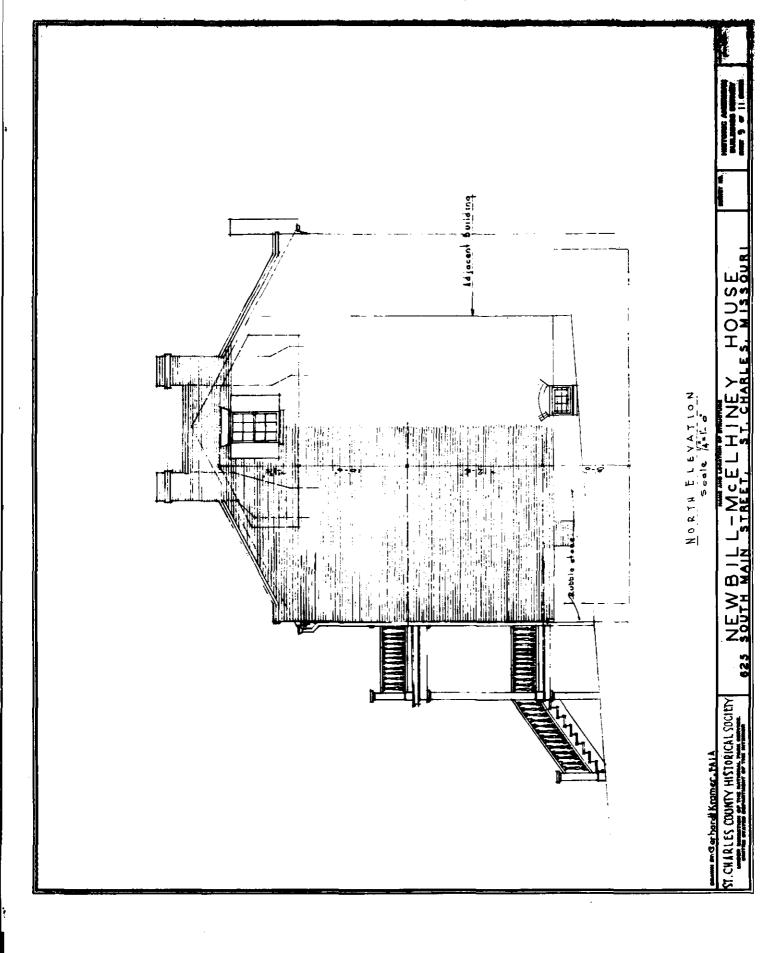
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	Restoration drawing,	south (Perr	y Street) elevation	:



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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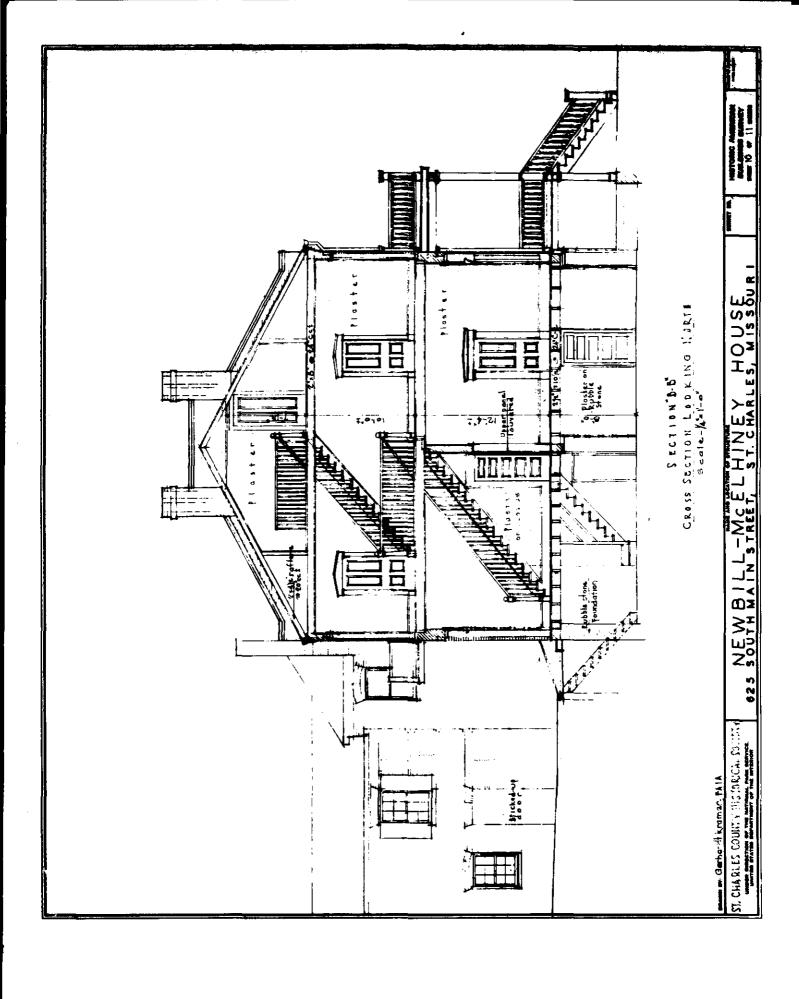
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		Restoration drawing FAIA, architect. Nor		elevation, Gerhardt Kran	ner,



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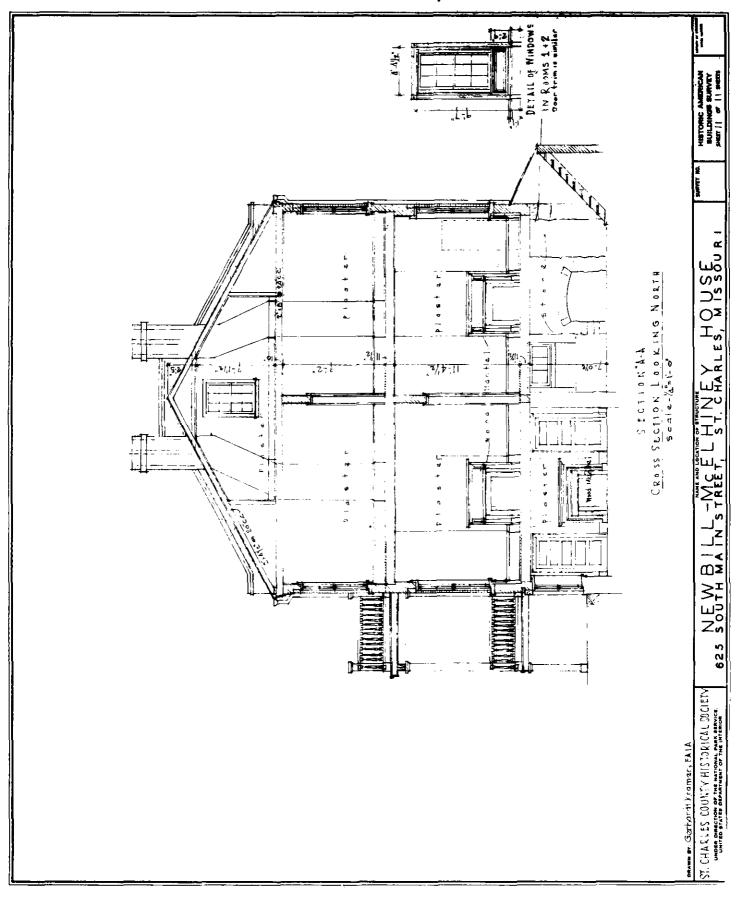
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}	Gerhardt Kramer, FA			_	
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	Restoration drawing Gerhardt Kramer, 1			



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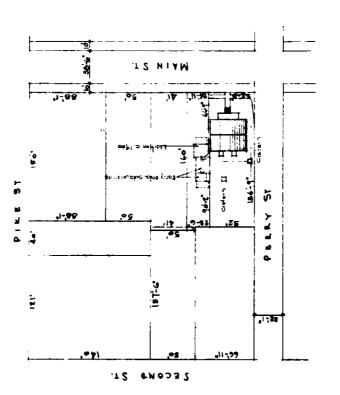
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living quarters on the Feet III and bedracine on the Secretary The Mewbill house contain Happears, however that the the the mosonry and-buildings fireplace on the Ground Fla the Kricheo with a locale st S. Newbill, a neethly mill o HISTORICAL

and in the. Mitte.

Be Mc Elhiney had come from Balair, Maryland in 1937, he see alacted by the Bemocrafts to represent St. Charles County story matching addition to thereby making the tile in a process of the tile and the conter story half. in the Legislature and he as Corator of the State Control of Colombia. He died in their Subsequently, the Elbinzy, a prominent

refined Federal duer and trum on the First Floor of was refained in the later



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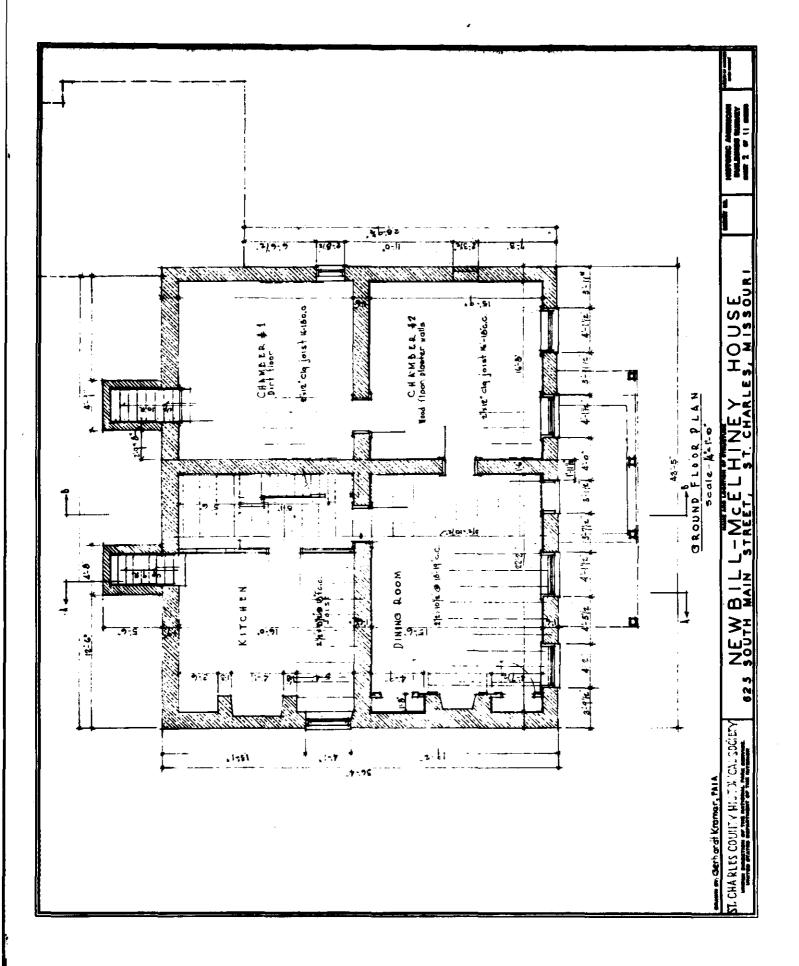
men on Gerhard Kramen, This

HOUSE

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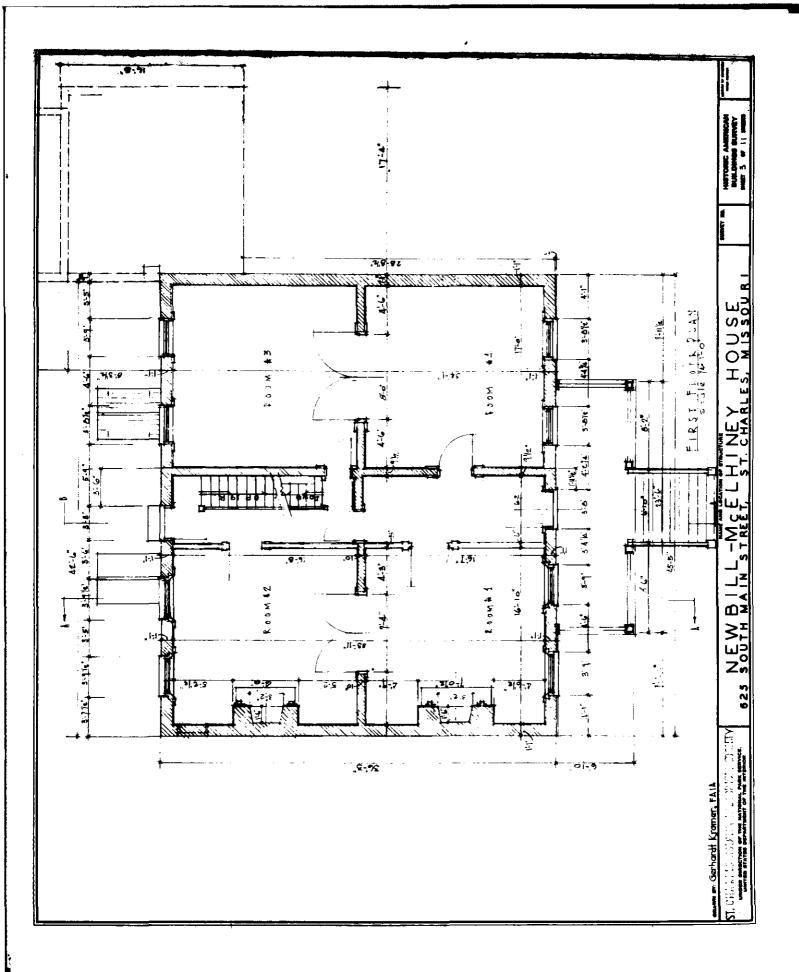
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		Restoration drawing FAIA Architect.	, ground f	loor plan, Gerhardt K	ramer,
	l .				



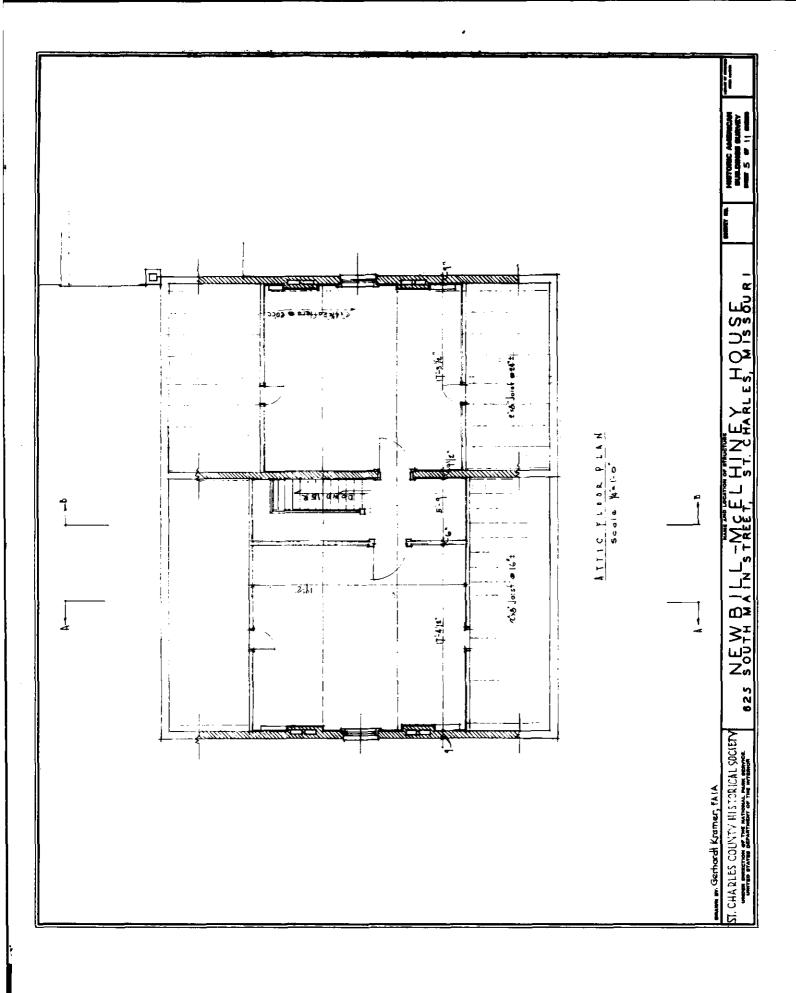
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	Restoration drawing, first	floor plan.	Gerhardt Krame	r,
·	FAIA Architect.	• ,		-
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				* * * * *	
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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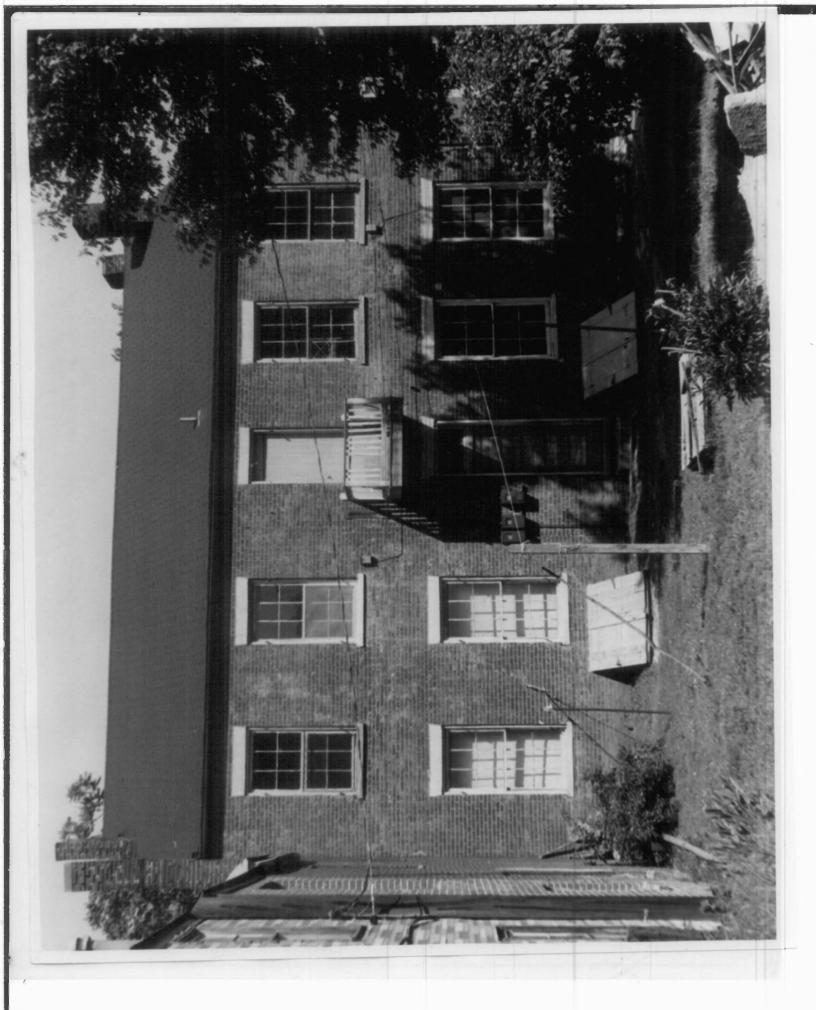
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	and brickwork betwe	en north and so	y variations in found outh portions of hous be removed. East fac	se.	



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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glave (near (Pahin) Originally brid	building was free-standing and as	nouse or
		additions to east and west will be	
1			se Lemoked
	competion Courth-courth	est facing north-north-east.	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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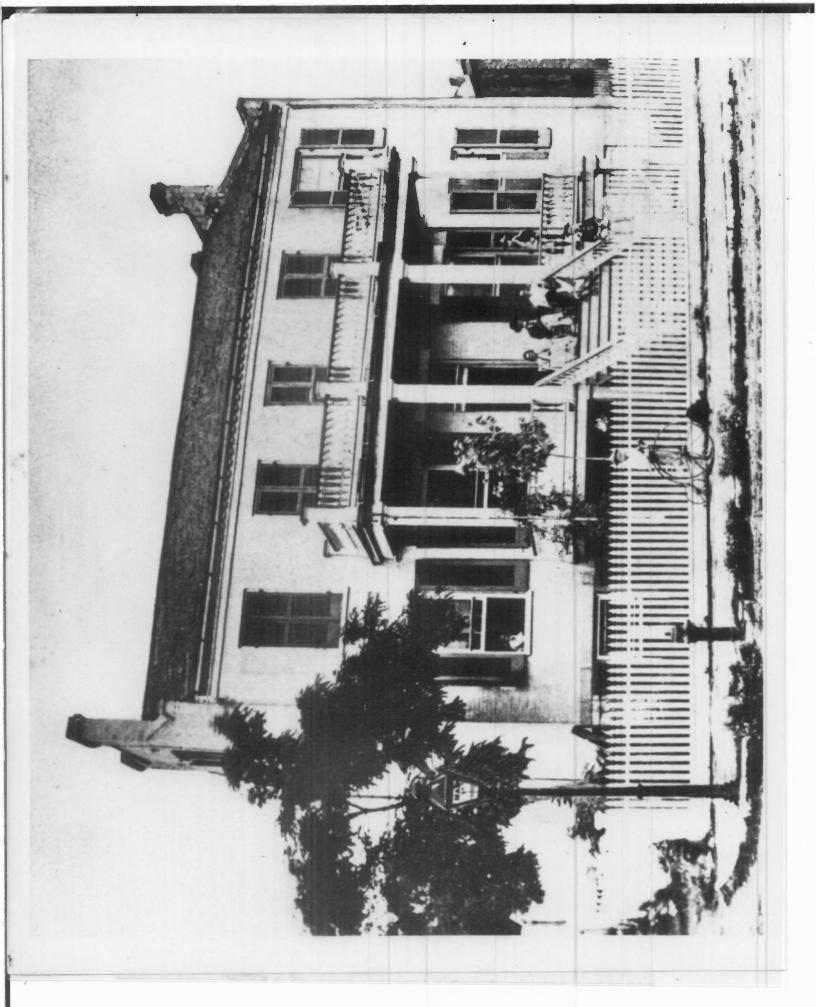
	
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	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.							
	Main Street view east to west showing old front north							

Dr. McElhiney seated on porch.

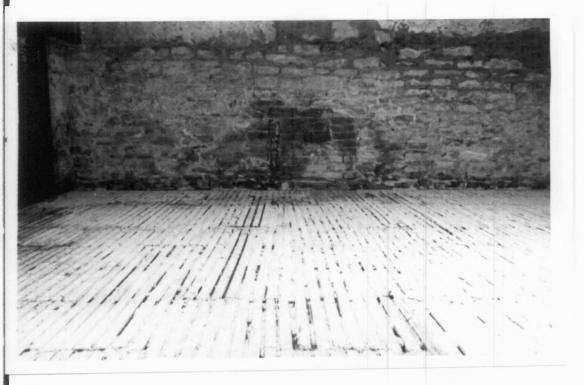
shutters, and picket fence. Photo by Goebel Studio.

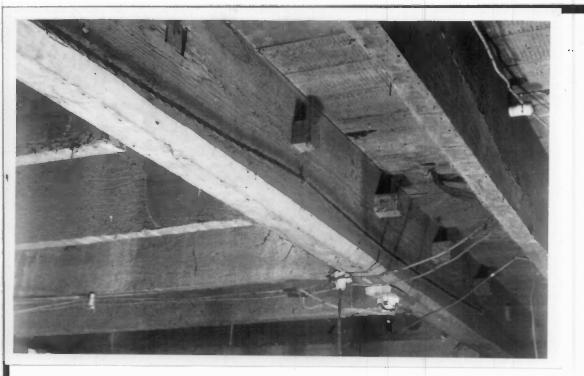


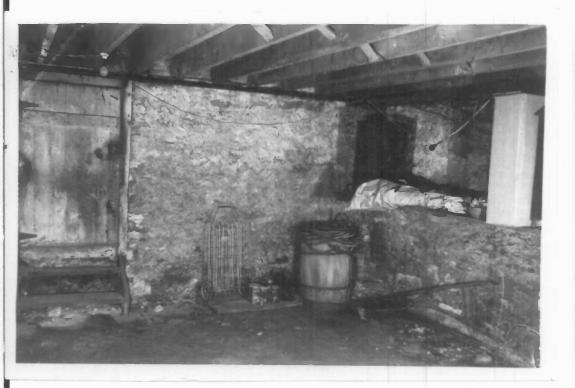
EXTRA PHOTOS

Newbill-Mc Elhinoy House 84. Charles, St. Charles County Grant Photographs (Bo Gre)



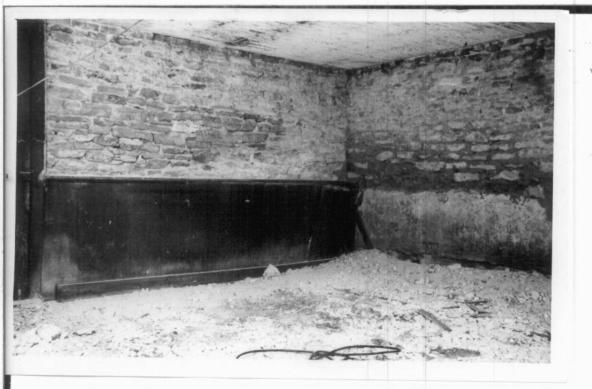




















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Newbill-Mc El hiney Hoso St. Charles, St Charles County Grant Photographs (After)









